than the level of US $ 35.963 billion during April-January, 2000-01. Exports, during the month of January 2002, recorded a rise of 18.18% in dollar terms as compared to the exports of January, 2001.

(b) to (d) In the last couple of years there have not been any instances of rejections on quality ground except that last year there was a rejection of a consignment of Basmati rice in Saudi Arabia and a consignment of wheat in Iraq. In both the cases, the issued have been resolved. However, quality control in exports being an important area, measures are taken from time to time to strengthen and streamline the system in this regard.

New Region for Cultivation of Coffee

509. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out at Rs.1000 crore plan to boost both export and domestic consumption of coffee during the next five years; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have identified new region for cultivation of coffee in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No. Sir. However, the Coffee Board is implementing a medium-term export strategy to sustain and gain market share in the key markets and also to improve the competitiveness of Indian Coffee in the global markets over the next five years. The Board has recently organised an International Coffee Festival in Bangalore which provided wide exposure for Indian coffee in the international arena. Similarly, for increasing domestic consumption of coffee, the Coffee Board is already taking various steps. In this direction, Govt. of India/Coffee Board has also taken initiative to encourage procurement and marketing of coffee by the Indian Coffee Marketing Cooperative Ltd. (COMARK) in collaboration with co-operative societies viz. National Diary Development Board and Gujarat Cooperative of Milk Marketing Federation (Amul) etc.

(b) The Coffee Board have not identified any new regions for taking up coffee cultivation in the country in the recent times. Currently, coffee is being cultivated in all the four southern states (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh) as well as in 7 North Eastern States and Orissa in suitable locations.